

Transit for Connecticut
Helping People, the Economy and the Environment

Environment Committee Public Hearing

February 18, 2011

In Opposition to:

SB 800 AA Restoring Commuter Rail Service from Waterbury to Hartford

Transit for Connecticut is a statewide coalition of 31 business, environmental, social service, transportation, planning and civic organizations dedicated to increasing awareness of the benefits of bus transit and advocating for increased investment in bus transit. While supporting increased bus service, we also support increased rail service and the connectivity of all modes of transportation to provide necessary transportation options for all Connecticut residents.

Bus transit is the backbone of public transit in Connecticut. The New Britain/Hartford busway will be the state's first regional rapid transit system and an excellent example of how the state can deliver bus service. This well thought out, well researched and well documented project will provide convenient subway-like service during peak hours and offer access to employment centers and connectivity to major transportation centers.

As a busway proponent, it is important to note that it is designed to be part of a larger state and regional transportation system. While the proposal to restore rail service between Waterbury and Hartford should be studied, it should not be considered an alternative to the service that will be provided by the busway.

Thank you for your consideration and thank you for your efforts to improve Connecticut's transportation network.

Karen Burnaska, Coordinator
Transit for Connecticut